Assurance Scheme and all these things. They cannot go to the Fields of others. Similarly, the male members also coming from middle class farmers and others will not like to go to the fields of others to work there. What I am trying to devise is that they can work in their own fields so that at least the male members could get the work. I have asked the Chief Minister to consult the women's organisations to find out what type of handicrafts and other things they can do and I am ready to provide cheap money and marketing facilities also. If the hon. Members can suggest anything - what could be done for the wives of the middle classes also - to help in this hour of famine like situation, then I will be very much obliged to them and I assure prompt action.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to declare the drought prone areas of Orissa as 'national calamity' and whether the Government is considering to provide special funds to eradicate the drought situation permanently from the backward districts of Orissa like Bolangir, Kalahandi, Dorpur, Phulwani, Dimapur and Padampur to save the lives of the poor people of these areas.

MR. SPEAKER : Good. It should be pointed like this.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Yes, Sir. It is a fact that drought is a permanent guest of Orissa.

Therefore, something must be done to keep out that guest. I am thinking of some permanent solution since Kalahandi, Bolangir or rather that entire belt is suffering from drought. I do not know for how many decades, but so far as I could recollect, for the last four or five decades...*(Interruptions)* I am hearing about this national calamity, but there is no Act to declare it as a national calamity. If it is my saying, I have already said it; if it is the Prime Minister's saying, he had already said it. What I am trying to tell you is that within the limits of the Tenth Finance Commission, this question cannot be solved and, therefore, extraordinary measures are to be taken. I assure you that I will do my best to see that this repeated drought does not come there. So, something has to be done for that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : This question relates to Orissa but it is equally important for Uttar Pradesh. Betel leaf is grown on a large scale in Pali and Mahuwa areas of Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh. This crop has been destroyed this year. Around 10 lakh people are engaged in this work.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This question specifically relates to Orissa.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : In reply to this question, the hon. Minister of Agriculture has said that no specific Act had been enacted to declare an area a natural calamity affected. We have seen recently th Andhra Pradesh has suffered a huge loss due to natur calamity. Our country faces natural calamities every no and then. I would like to know from the Government a to whether there is any plan to make a permanei arrangement to deal with such a situation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister had already given th answer. He said that he was thinking of some permane solution for it.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhy Pradesh is adjacent to Orissa.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you going outside th scope of this question? This question specially relate to Orissa. Your question is not allowed.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What has been done or wh should be done, it does not make question.

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, questior regarding the Kalahandi area of Orissa are being raise here but starvation and famine are not confined to to particular geographical limit. Oriya speaking people liv in Raigarh and Sarangarh districts of Chhatisgarh regic which is adjacent to Orissa.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a specific question relating Orissa.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : In the beginning itself, I had sa that the issue was being debated in the House and yc could have your say when given a chance to speak

[English]

Deaths due to Air Pollution

+

*64. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL
SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have studied th recently published report of the Centre for Scienc Environment's magazine Down to Earth, according which every year in just six Indian cities 40,0C people are dying due to air pollution, 7500 of them Delhi;

(b) if so, the other salient features of the said report;

(c) the results achieved by various measures undertaken to contain the growing environmental pollution; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to revamp the Environmental Pollution Control Programme so as to make it more effective?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(b) The other salient features of the report of the Centre for Science and Environment magazine "Down to Earth" include the following :

The report estimates that environment damages amounted to a total of about Rs. 34,000 crores per year or 4.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic Poduct in 1992.

The report estimates health costs of air and water pollution and economic losses occurring due to degradation of croplands and grazing lands as also due to deforestation. It has also calculated the losses to the Indian economy because of reduced opportunities for international tourism revenue.

The report shows water degradation accounts for health costs worth Rs. 19,950 crores every year which is 59 per cent of total environmental costs.

The report estimates the total health costs resulting from air pollutants to be Rs. 1,810-7,357 crores per year.

The report estimates land degradation to account for between 4.0 per cent and 6.3 per cent productivity loss in total agricultural output every year which amounts to Rs. 5,250 crores to Rs. 8,400 crores.

The report reveals economic losses due to reduction in international tourism to the tune of Rs. 497-991 crores per year.

(c) and (d). The measures taken by the Government o contain environmental pollution and the results ıchieved are as follows :

The Government has formulated a comprehensive Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution which envisages integration of environmental and economic aspects of development planning, lays stress on preventive aspects of pollution abatement and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollution.

- Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.
- Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.
- Custom and excise duty exemptions are provided to the industries for pollution control/ monitoring equipment.
- A scheme for setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants in clusters of small scale industrial units is under implementation. About 60 CETPs have been approved which are at various stages of construction.
- To promote pollution prevention in small and medium scale industries, the Government has initiated the following projects :
- Project on establishment of Waste Minimisation Circles in clusters of small scale industries.
- Project on establishment of National Cleaner Production Centre at National Productivity Council.
- Emission standards for 39 categories of industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Out of a total number of 1551 units belonging to the 17 categories of highly polluting industries, 1259 industries have already installed adequate facilities for pollution control to comply with the stipulated standards. 112 units have been closed down. Regular monitoring is being carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards and legal action is being taken against the defaulters.
- 24 problem areas have been identified in the country for abatement of pollution. Action plans have been prepared in respect of 14 areas and they are in various stages of implementation.
- Ambient air quality standards have been notified in the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and in the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These include standards for major air pollutants for different areas such as residential, industrial and sensitive areas.
- The Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring the levels of air pollutants in all

the major cities and towns through a network of 290 ambient air quality monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (NAAQM) Network. The data helps understand the trends in air quality. Monitoring of ambient air quality of the major air pollutants indicate that pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide are within the prescribed limits in most of the cities. Annual average concentrations of suspended particulate matter in the ambient air of a number of cities particularly some areas of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Lucknow are beyond the prescribed limits. The levels of particulate lead in Delhi after the introduction of now-lead petrol and subsequently unleaded petrol is showing a decreasing trend.

Tighter emission standards were introduced on 1-4-1996 for all categories of petrol and diesel vehicles and is to be made stricter from 1-4-2000. This would help introduce cleaner vehicles involving upgradation of technologies to reduce emissions from vehicles.

The Central Government has advised the various States to enforce the standards for emissions from on-road vehicles and create awareness amongst the general public on various aspects as maintenance of vehicles, health effects of vehicular pollution and preventive measures for violation of emission standards for on-road vehicles.

Low lead petrol had been introduced in the 4 metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai w.e.f. June 1994. Subsequently unleaded petrol was introduced in the abovementioned 4 cities on 1-4-1995.

Major vehicular pollution surveys have been carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board in 12 major cities in the country. The surveys have helped understand the level of pollution in these cities and recommend suitable abatement measures for its implementation and control.

The Government is implementing a major plan of action for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converter fitted vehicles, introduction of low sulphur diesel for cleaner diesel vehicles in a phased manner. Fuel quality standards for petrol and diesel have been notified.

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : I have gone through the statement of the hon. Minister and I am asking my first supplementary. I would like to know whether the Ministry, at any stage, had studied the causes for water, air and environmental pollution mainly responsible for deaths in six Indian cities.

If so, what are its findings and what steps have been taken to combat this situation?

[Translation]

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked as to whether any study had been conducted in this regard. The main causes for air pollution in cities are gases discharged by vehicles and fuel used by industrial units. As per the study conducted regarding Delhi, C.P.M. pollution of houses in Delhi in 1994 was 328 in exterior region and 354 in interior region what should have been 7 is 12.5. Similarly in industry, it is 20.7 instead of 80. N.O.X. which should have been 7 is presently 28.3. In an industry it should have been 80, whereas it is only 29.8.

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking my second supplementary...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : The hon. Minister has given an ambiguous reply to the question. It should be clarified.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : In whatever way you want to understand, you understand it.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the most fearsome problem of water pollution which has, at present, gripped the North and South 24 Parganas and other cities nearby West Bengal. If so, how does he propose to meet the situation and afford necessary relief to the affected residents thereof?

[Translation]

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to pollution but the hon. Member has also raised the issue of water pollution. I would like to say something about 24 Pargana. In June 1991, there was a report regarding arsenic pollution in ground water in West Bengal. In this report, recommendation was made by the Members to tap deep aquafires for the purposes of drinking water and the tubewells containing arsenic...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : The Members are not able to understand the reply being given by the hon. Minister. I feel that an Half-an-Hour disucussion should be conducted on this issue. Today, pollution has become a serious problem specially in Delhi.

MR. SPEAKER : It will create confusion further.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : You please ask the Minister to reply this question properly and you kindly allow Half-an-Hour discussion on this issue.

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : I am also in favour of an hour discussion instead of Half-an-Hour discussion because it is a serious issue. It should be discussed in detail so that opinions of Members could be got on it. Member can also ask questions on air pollution.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Sir, Shri Rajesh Pilot is a former Minister of Environment. He is supporting that Party. So, he should stand up and clarify the answer!

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Handique, quickly put a question in half a minute. If you want an answer, just put a one-line question.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to an estimate, transport contributes 10 per cent of the SPM load in Delhi while 80 per cent SPM emission is attributable to industrial power generation. May I know from the hon. Minister whether his attention has been drawn to Justice Kuldip Singh's judgment for controlling air pollution to keep off one-third of the total vehicles? I would like to know whether the Government accepts the suggestion and if not, what alternative measures the Government are thinking to take.

MR. SPEAKER : I cautioned you.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Sugar Production

*65. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of sugar has fallen short of the target;

(b) if so, the extent thereof;

(c) the contribution of sugar by States towards the Central pool, State-wise;

(d) the quantity of sugar proposed to be exported this year; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government to boost the sugar production?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e). There has been a surplus production of sugar. Against the domestic off-take/requirement of about 130 lakh tonnes during the sugar season 1995-96, the production of sugar was 164.29 lakh tonnes (Provisional). The sugar industry ended the sugar season 1995-96 (as on 30.09.1996) with a closing stock of nearly 81 lakh tonnes as against more than 53 lakh tonnes in the previous year, on 30.09.95.

There is no Central Pool of sugar and as such the question of States' contributing to it does not arise. In the new sugar year, effort would be made to export as much sugar as possible in view of the fact that sugar supply position is very very comfortable.

Environmental Clearance to Power Projects

*66. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no environmental clearance is necessary for the power projects upto Rs. 1000 crore enblock without considering their environmental impact;

(b) whether no environmental clearance is necessary for the power projects upto Rs. 1000 crore in future;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the measures proposed to ensure environment protection by all power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Modalities for delegation of powers to State Governments for according environmental clearance to power projects are under finalisation.

Foreign Aid to banned Organisations

*67. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the banned organisations in the country continuously receiving foreign aid on a large scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating names of the banned organisations receiving foreign aid;

(c) the purposes for which the aid is utilised by these organisations; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (d). Government does not have any reports about organisations, declared as 'Unlawful associations' under the Law, continuously receiving foreign aid on large scale. However, there have been reports, from time to time, of the flow of illegal funds to various secessionist and militant organisations including banned organisations through clandestine channels. The Government and the security agencies are continuously making efforts to contain such